



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

October 11, 2012

To: All Department Heads

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is placed over the printed name and title of the Chief Executive Officer.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

INVESTIGATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF EXPOSURES TO COMMUNICABLE DISEASE IN COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

Every County department is obligated to follow directions of the Department of Public Health's Local Health Officer, with regard to investigations related to communicable disease exposures such as tuberculosis or other aerosol-transmitted diseases. When contacted by the County Health Officer or designee, please assure your Human Resources and Risk Management units fully cooperate in the investigation for possible worker contacts to communicable disease. Department of Public Health staff will conduct the investigation and determine if any employees have been in close contact with an identified person with the communicable disease. They will identify and test employees at possible risk. The exception to this advisory would be the Department of Health Services who will conduct its own internal investigation of their potentially exposed employees and provide the required testing results and information to the Department of Public Health.

The Department of Public Health can provide education and assistance for impacted staff when necessary, as well as points of contact for employee questions or concerns.

Please review the attached "*Investigation of Communicable Disease in County of Los Angeles Departments*" to ensure your department cooperates with these investigations.

If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Robert Kim-Farley, M.D., Department of Public Health, at (213) 989-7161.

WTF:ES
SEN:mld

Attachment

c: Board of Supervisors

INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE IN COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENTS

The County of Los Angeles (County) Department of Public Health (Public Health)'s Local Health Officer, or designee, may necessitate a workplace contact investigation for any communicable disease exposure in County departments. When contacted by Public Health, County departments will assure full cooperation in the investigation and identification of possible contacts, including employee contact information.

Employee contacts may require tests, including blood tests, nasopharyngeal swabs, or tuberculosis (TB) skin or blood tests (IGRA), and chest X-rays. Certain identified contacts may require treatment for latent TB infection, other chemoprophylaxis, or treatment for active disease in the event of actual disease transmission. Chemoprophylaxis or treatment can be obtained from the employee's designated occupational health provider or from Public Health.

In the Department of Health Services (DHS), Employee Health Units will conduct internal testing and provide the names of identified contacts and their test results to Public Health.

Public Health will provide onsite education and consultation related to these investigations at the request of a County department.

Definition of Terms

Chest X-ray Studies: Radiological evaluation for communicable disease.

Contact Chemoprophylaxis/Treatment: Medication required for preventing transmission of communicable disease.

Contact Screening: Identification, interview, and possible testing for communicable disease.

Deputy Health Officer: Deputized Local Health Officer designee.

District Public Health Nurse: RN/PHN assigned to assist the Deputy Health Officer in communicable disease investigation.

Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA): Blood test to determine TB infection.

Local Health Officer: County Health Officer, Department of Public Health as authorized under California Health and Safety Code Section 120175.

Mantoux Skin Test: Intradermal test to determine TB infection.

Mumps Test: Buccal and urine specimens.

Definition of Terms (Continued)

Nasopharyngeal Swabs for Respiratory Pathogens: Specimen collection for respiratory diseases and identification.

Other blood tests: Disease titers, immune status tests for evaluation in communicable disease exposure.

Authority

Cal OSHA ATD Standard 5199 (h) (6)

California Health and Safety Code Sections 121363, 120175

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health TB Control Program Manual (2003), Sections. 6-8